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8 February 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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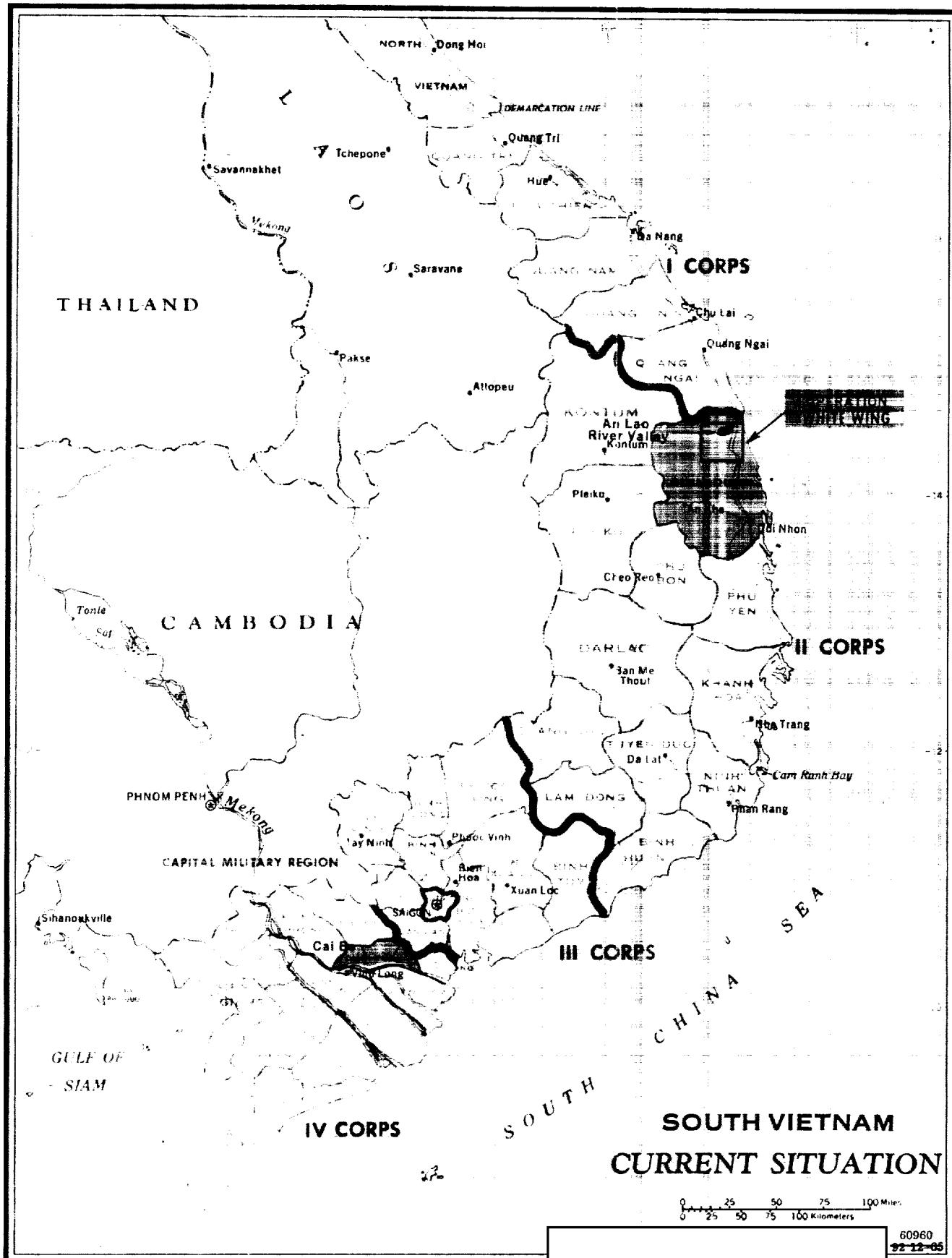
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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

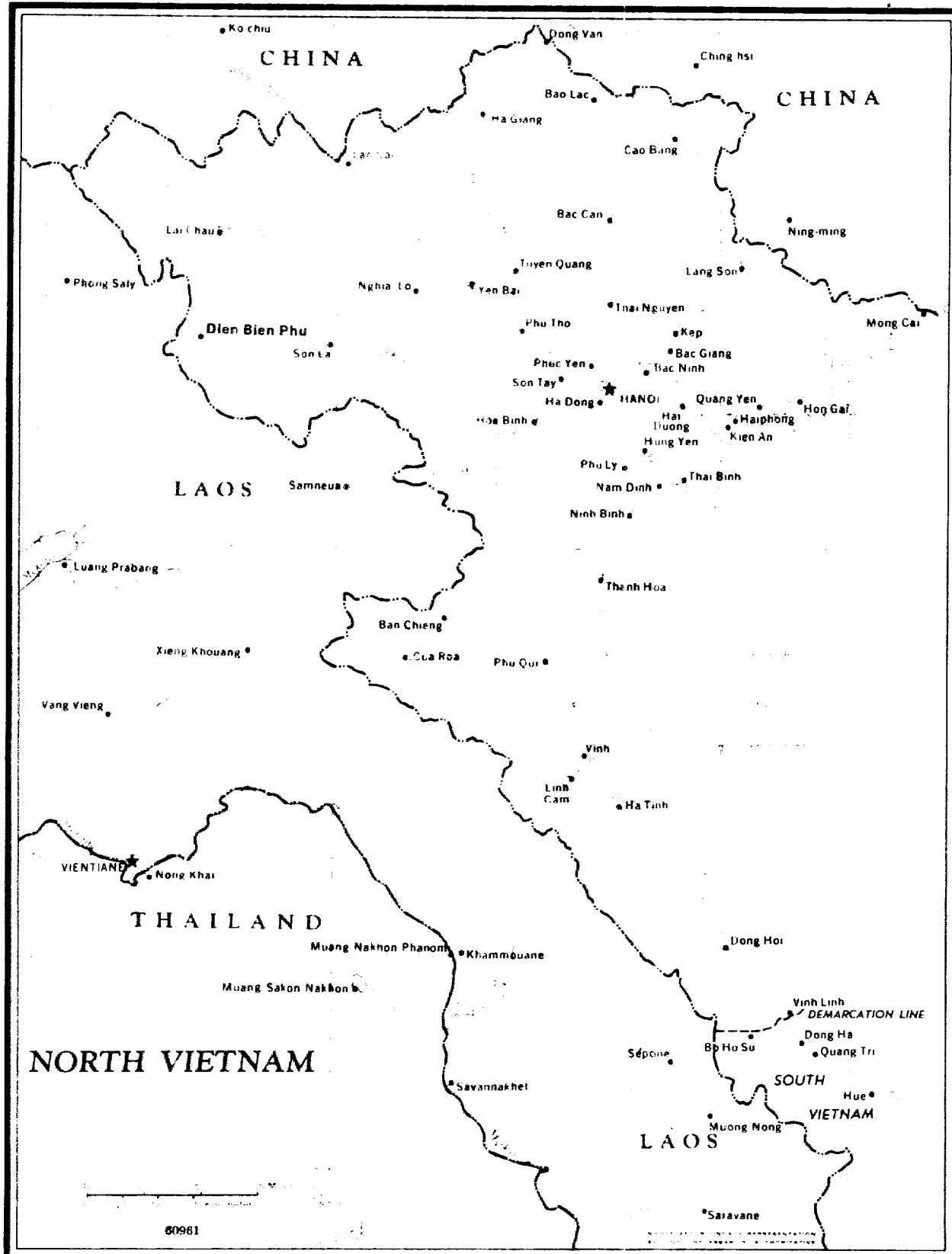
The Military Situation in South Vietnam: An estimated battalion of Viet Cong early yesterday attacked a battalion of South Vietnamese troops three miles northwest of the district town of Cai Be in Dinh Tuong Province. Government casualties were 74 killed and 46 wounded; enemy losses were 19 killed. In addition, a simultaneous enemy mortar bombardment of Cai Be itself killed two civilians and wounded eight others.

Operation WHITE WING is continuing in north-eastern Binh Dinh Province without significant enemy contact during the past 24 hours. Some four battalions of US troops were sweeping the An Lao River Valley yesterday, after poor weather had delayed this phase of the operation for two days.

Operations JEFFERSON and VAN BUREN, long-term rice harvest/security actions by US, Vietnamese, and Korean forces in coastal Phu Yen Province, have thus far produced results of considerable significance.

Approximately 150 square kilometers of territory in Tuy Hoa and Hieu Xuong Districts have been freed from Viet Cong control, and governmental officials have been selected for the cleared areas. To date, 28 percent of the area's estimated 50,000-ton rice harvest--a six months' supply for the local population--has been harvested and secured. As of 7 February, the two operations had resulted in cumulative Viet Cong personnel losses of 834 killed, 44 captured, and 735 suspects apprehended. In addition, 123 Viet Cong have rallied to government control, most of whom were heavily influenced by the government's intensive psychological warfare effort.

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North Vietnamese Military Developments: Photographs of a North Vietnamese MIG-21 Fishbed fighter taken during an unsuccessful intercept attempt against a US U-2 reconnaissance aircraft show that the MIG-21 was probably the "D" model all-weather version. The fighter had an extended nose cone and appeared to have one air-to-air missile mounted under each wing. The image was blurred, however, and the exact type of missile could not be determined. This is the first good indication of the introduction of air-to-air missiles into the DRV since the MIG-21s were first detected in late December 1965. The introduction of these weapons--none of which has yet been fired in combat--will put some DRV fighter/interceptors on a near equal footing with equivalent US aircraft.

Bomb damage photography of the 6 February US air strike against the Dien Bien Phu airfield shows that the runway was not damaged. On the basis of pilot reports, the Central Intelligence Bulletin [redacted] had erroneously reported that the airfield had been put out of commission. Adjacent storage areas, which reportedly were extensively damaged, were not photographed. [redacted]

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Communist Political Developments: The list of DRV diplomatic representatives who have returned home for probable consultations or for administrative reasons is lengthening and it appears that a general review of foreign policy is being conducted in Hanoi. DRV representatives who have returned include men from France, Poland, Ghana, Tanzania and India. The DRV ambassadors to Moscow, Peking and Havana are also possibly in Hanoi.]

[A review of foreign policy by Hanoi at about this time of year is traditional. Such reviews, with the participation of some of its diplomats, are known to have been held in 1962 and 1964. They have usually followed central committee meetings of the North Vietnamese party. There is some evidence that such a meeting was held last December. In the past, such foreign policy reviews have not been followed by any drastic alteration in the regime's foreign policy guidelines.]

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Dominican Republic: [Minister of Defense Rivera is concerned over Garcia Godoy's failure to begin fulfilling the conditions Rivera has set for leaving the country.]

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the longer Rivera remains the more time right-wing politicians and hard-line military officers have to persuade him to stay.]

[*Yesterday, in his initial attempt to persuade the rebels to dismantle their camp, Garcia Godoy found their reaction to be generally negative. The President thought there was little chance of changing this view prior to Rivera's departure from the country.]

[In addition, the President continues to appear reluctant to meet Rivera's other major demand for a flat guarantee that the provisional regime will make no further command changes. The President has said he is willing to accept this condition only if the military chiefs will maintain an obedient and impartial attitude during the electoral campaign. Garcia Godoy might be pleased if Rivera were to revert to an intransigent stand, since this would put the President on firmer ground for asking the OAS to help force out the top military leadership.]

[Meanwhile, the military has uncovered an attempt, which it claims is directed by the rebel leadership, to gain backing among enlisted men. Although the military claims the rebels have a grandiose plan to take over the army and assassinate its leaders, US military attachés believe there is no serious threat at this time.]

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NOTES

Yemen: Negotiations for a Yemen settlement remain stalled, and each side is accusing the other of using the truce period to improve its military position. King Faysal apparently has not replied to Nasir's four-point offer of 13 January on the terms of a peace settlement.

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Costa Rica: Unofficial returns from San José indicate that José Joaquin Trejos of the opposition coalition National Unification Party (UN) has narrowly defeated Daniel Oduber of the ruling National Liberation Party (PLN) in the presidential race. The opposition campaign tactic of smearing Oduber with the Communist label apparently had a significant influence. Reaction against Oduber, however, has not carried over to the legislative races, the majority of which the PLN has won. A Trejos administration, which brings to power parties with widely divergent views, combined with a PLN legislative majority can be expected to hamper government operations and impede the passage of needed economic reforms, but US interests are not likely to be affected.

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